corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The Amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 3 and 13 are canceled and therefore the rejection as applied to these claims is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 21, 23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Cox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,950). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cox et al. teaches a printed circuit card assembly that includes a single-piece stamped bottom cover. The cover has a plurality of tabs with each tab having an aperture. A printed circuit card has a plurality of slots with each slot adapted to receive one of the tabs. A single-piece stamped top cover has opposite sides, a side rail on each side and a plurality of prongs extending from each side rail. The prongs are adapted to snap fit into the aperture is in the tabs when the top and bottom covers are joined.

Claim 1 is directed to a frame kit for an IC card and includes a frame, a first panel and a second panel. The frame is generally U-shaped and is fabricated from an injection molding material. The frame has an inner wall defining an internal space. Claim 1 recites that the first panel is fabricated from metal material and includes a L-shaped locking member having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion forming the L-shape. Claim 1 further recites that the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion are embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel member to the frame. Claim 1 further recites that a front segment of the locking claw portion projects out from the inner wall and into the internal space. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the second panel is fabricated from metal material and has an engaging locking member having an engaging hole. Claim 1 also recites that the engaging hole is engageable with the front segment of the locking claw portion.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a generally U-shaped frame and a L-shaped locking member having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel to the frame. Further, the applied art fails to teach a front segment of the locking claw portion projecting out from an inner wall of the frame into an internal space. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 25 is directed to a frame for an IC card. Like claim 1, claim 25 recites a generally U-shaped frame body (analogous to the generally U-shaped frame in claim 1) and a panel (analogous to the first panel in claim 1). The recited features in claim 25 for the generally U-shaped frame body and the panel are identical to the features recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 25 is allowable for the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4-8, 21 and 23 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 26 and 28-30 depend from claim 25 and include all of the features of claim 25. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 3 and 27 are canceled. Therefore, the rejection as applied to these claims is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-18, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Cox et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 is directed to an IC card that includes a frame, a first panel, a second panel and a circuit board assembly. The frame is fabricated from an injection molding material and has an inner wall defining an internal space for the IC card. Claim 1 recites that the first panel is fabricated from metal material and has a L-shaped locking member. Claim 11 further recites that the locking member has a hanging portion and a locking claw portion forming the L-shape. Also, claim 11 recites that the hanging wall portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion are embedded and held in the

frame to connect the first panel member to the frame. Further, claim 11 recites that a front segment of the locking claw portion projects into the internal space from the inner wall of the frame. Additionally, claim 11 recites that the second panel is fabricated from metal material and has an engaging locking member having an engaging hole. Also, claim 11 recites that the engaging hole is engageable with the front segment of the claw portion inside the frame. Additionally, claim 11 recites that the engaging locking member includes a guiding portion that extends obliquely toward the internal space. The circuit board assembly is constructed by mounting a connector on the circuit board with the circuit board assembly being contained between the first panel and a second panel.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 11. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a first panel having a L-shaped locking member that has a hanging portion and a locking claw portion forming the L-shape with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion being embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel to the frame. Further, the applied art fails to teach a front segment of the locking claw portion projecting into the internal space from the inner wall of the frame. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the features of the applied art because the applied art fails to teach or suggest these features. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22 and 24 depend from claim 11 and include all of the features of claim 11. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons claim 11 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 13 and 16 are canceled. Thus, the rejection as applied to these claims is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Cox et al. in view of Feldman (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,483). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Feldman teaches a frameless IC card and a housing for the frameless IC card.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 11 and include all of the features of claim 11. For at least the reasons the independent claims are allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also allowable as well as for the features they recite.

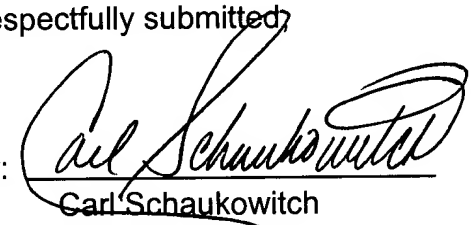
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No.18-0013 that is necessary to consider an appropriate response timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 12, 2002

By: 
Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353
Enclosure(s): Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims

DC085408

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) A frame kit for an IC card, comprising:

a generally U-shaped frame fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space [of an IC card];

a first panel [integrated with the frame and having a first] fabricated from metal material and including a L-shaped locking member [which includes a portion that is] having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel to the frame, where a front [end of the first locking member] segment of the locking claw portion projects out from the [implanted portion toward] inner wall and into the internal space [from an inner wall of the frame]; and

a second panel fabricated from metal material and having [a second] an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the [first locking member of the first panel inside the frame] front segment of the locking claw portion to connect the second panel to the frame.

4. (Amended) The frame kit according to claim 1, wherein

the [second] engaging locking member is [composed of an elastic member] formed as an integral construction with the second panel, moves angularly relative thereto in a resiliently biased manner from a position perpendicular to the second panel.

11. (Three Times Amended) An IC card comprising:

a frame fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space of [an] the IC card;

a first panel [integrated with and embedded into the frame and having a first] fabricated from metal material and having a L-shaped locking member [which projects toward the internal space from an] having a hanging portion and a locking claw

portion forming the L-shape with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion being embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel to the frame with a front segment of the locking claw portion projecting into the internal space from the inner wall of the frame;

a second panel fabricated from metal material and having [a second] an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the [first locking member of the first panel] front segment of the locking claw portion inside the frame, said [second] engaging locking member comprising a guiding portion that extends obliquely toward the internal space; and

a circuit board assembly constructed by mounting a connector on the circuit board, the circuit board assembly being contained between the first panel and the second panel.

14. (Amended) The IC card according to claim 11, wherein

the [second] engaging locking member is [composed of an elastic member] formed as an integral construction with the second panel, moves angularly relative thereto in a resiliently biased manner from a position perpendicular to the second panel.

23. (Twice Amended) The frame kit according to claim [3] 1, wherein the [remaining one of the first or second] engaging locking [members] member includes a guiding portion disposed forwardly of said engaging hole, the guiding portion extends obliquely toward the internal space to guide said engaging hole towards the [locking claw] front segment of the locking claw portion.

24. (Twice Amended) The IC card according to claim [13] 11, wherein the [remaining one of the first or second] engaging locking [members] member includes a guiding portion disposed forwardly of said engaging hole, and guides said engaging hole towards said [locking claw] front segment of the locking claw portion.

25. (Twice Amended) A frame for an IC card, comprising:

a generally U-shaped frame body fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space; and

[an] a panel [integrated with the frame body and having a first] fabricated from metal material and including a L-shaped locking member [which includes a portion that is] having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion embedded and held in the frame body to connect the panel to the frame, where a front [end of the first locking members] segment of the locking claw portion projects out from the [implanted portion toward] inner wall and into the internal space [from the inner wall of the frame body].